



# COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

## FIRE DEPARTMENT

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DARYL L. OSBY  
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TO: EACH SUPERVISOR

FROM: DARYL L. OSBY, FIRE CHIEF

### FIRE DISTRICT – POTENTIAL NEW REVENUE OPPORTUNITIES

The Fire District is evaluating the potential of several new revenue streams that have been and/or are being established by many fire departments throughout California. The majority of these new revenue streams are related to the implementation of fees associated with emergency medical services (EMS). The monies generated from these fees will be used to offset the cost the Fire District is currently incurring to provide emergency medical response and to enhance the delivery of these services, therefore, mitigating our risk management costs.

The Fire District will consult with the Chief Executive Office, Auditor-Controller, and other subject matter experts while evaluating the feasibility of these new revenue streams. The Fire District will obtain Board approval to implement all fees associated with the revenue streams deemed viable.

Below is a brief description of the new revenue streams we are evaluating:

- First Responder's Fee – Fire departments are collecting this fee from patients' healthcare insurance providers to offset a portion of the cost associated with EMS response. Implementation of this fee is critical as it provides the framework to secure Federal funding known as the Ground Emergency Medical Transports.
- Ground Emergency Medical Transports (GEMT) - GEMT allows local fire service agencies to obtain reimbursement for pre-hospital care provided to Medi-Cal patients. Reimbursement is limited to 50 percent of the uncompensated cost of first response associated with Medi-Cal patient treatment prior to transport.

#### SERVING THE UNINCORPORATED AREAS OF LOS ANGELES COUNTY AND THE CITIES OF:

AGOURA HILLS  
ARTESIA  
AZUSA  
BALDWIN PARK  
BELL  
BELL GARDENS  
BELLFLOWER  
BRADBURY

CALABASAS  
CARSON  
CERRITOS  
CLAREMONT  
COMMERCE  
COVINA  
CUDAHY

DIAMOND BAR  
DUARTE  
EL MONTE  
GARDENA  
GLENDDORA  
HAWAIIAN GARDENS  
HAWTHORNE

HIDDEN HILLS  
HUNTINGTON PARK  
INDUSTRY  
INGLEWOOD  
IRWINDALE  
LA CANADA FLINTRIDGE  
LA HABRA

LA MIRADA  
LA PUENTE  
LAKEWOOD  
LANCASTER  
LAWNDALE  
LOMITA  
LYNWOOD

MALIBU  
MAYWOOD  
NORWALK  
PALMDALE  
PALOS VERDES ESTATES  
PARAMOUNT  
PICO RIVERA

POMONA  
RANCHO PALOS VERDES  
ROLLING HILLS  
ROLLING HILLS ESTATES  
ROSEMEAD  
SAN DIMAS  
SANTA CLARITA

SIGNAL HILL  
SOUTH EL MONTE  
SOUTH GATE  
TEMPLE CITY  
WALNUT  
WEST HOLLYWOOD  
WESTLAKE VILLAGE  
WHITTIER

- Vehicle Accident Recovery Fee – This recovery fee is applicable to the at-fault driver who caused a vehicle accident. The fee provides reimbursement for first responders to traffic accidents. It is billed to the at-fault driver's vehicle insurance provider. Approximately sixty-five (65) fire departments in California currently collect this fee.
- Advanced Life Support (ALS) Assessment Fee – The ALS assessment fee is charged to patients who receive an ALS assessment by a paramedic. The fire departments can bill for an ALS assessment fee even if the assessment did not result in transport to a hospital. The fee is normally billed directly to the healthcare insurance provider.
- Fire Prevention Fees – The Fire District currently charges limited fees associated with land development costs. However, many other agencies charge fees for many other fire prevention activities, such as plan reviews, permits, and annual inspections. Fire prevention fees are paid at the time the service is provided.

Since 1978, the Fire District has absorbed a 300 percent increase in EMS responses (from 72,000 to approximately 230,000) and augmented its staffing to respond to critical modern-day emergencies, such as hazardous materials, urban search and rescue, terrorism attacks, and wildland fires in the urban interface areas. However, the Fire District's main revenue source (property tax allocation of 1 percent) remains relatively the same as a result of Proposition 13. The pursuit of viable new revenue opportunities will assist the Fire District in effectively managing our current and future service demands.

The Fire District will provide your Board an update on our assessment of these potential revenue opportunities by March 31, 2014. Our update will include potential revenue amounts, time frames to implement each viable fee, and information related to any additional administrative oversight/reporting required for the new funding source. Afterwards, I will meet with each of you and/or your staff to discuss these revenue opportunities in detail.

If you have any questions, please contact me or your staff may contact Deputy Chief Dawnna Lawrence, Administrative Services Bureau, at (323) 881-2426.

DLO:dbl

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